

The Cumberland Valley Quarterly

Information of Interest in Cumberland Valley



April, May, June, 2001

Volume One " Issue One

A NOTE FROM THE SRA:

It is an exciting time in Cumberland Valley. The activity level is at an all-time high. In some quarters, excitement is at an all-time high also. In others, excitement is at an all-time low. All of this is understandable. We are in a period of considerable change and with that come stresses and strains that are extraordinary. People respond differently under those pressures. Some rally, some become weary, some become testy. All of us feel it in one way or another.

In the midst of the flurry of activity, we have to keep in mind the end goal and I do not think there is disagreement among us as to what that end goal is—we all want to provide the best service possible to our clients.

COA provides us the opportunity in the Protection and Permanency Division to be assured we are providing the best service possible to our clients. Knowing it and “knowing it” are two different things. We will have the opportunity to truly know it following that visit. That requires that we be our best and show our best. But we can do that. We will do that!! And I can hardly wait to show you off.

As we meet some of the upcoming challenges we will be doing it without some of the faces that have been so instrumental to our successes in the past. We have a number of individuals retiring. While we will miss them and their expertise, we certainly congratulate them on a long and successful career and wish them well as they leave, though we wish they would not go.

What we have to do now, in light of the retirements, is look at this as an opportunity. We will be replacing some new people in the supervisory and administrative slots. They will come in with new ideas, new excitement, new challenges. This is an opportunity for us to expand our thinking and learn new ways of doing things. We can grow and stretch and become more than we are. That is exciting.

I look forward to the next several months. Cumberland Valley will look and behave differently 6 months from now than it does now. COA will be behind us, CFS will be instituted in the counties, EAL will be almost completed, our first group will have “hit the wall” in Family Support, several new supervisors will be in place, new employees will be hired...Cumberland Valley

will be different with the opportunity to be even better. What an exciting time in the life of Cumberland Valley Region!!

Nancy Bean, SRA, Cumberland Valley CHILD SUPPORT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

In March, a letter of congratulations was received from Secretary Miller regarding the significant reduction of undistributed collections in child support. Percentages ranged from 17% to **49%** with **Cumberland Valley** being the leader.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PERMANENCY TEAM

The Cumberland Valley Permanency Team has been working very hard this year to do their part in achieving the adoption goal of 24 for the year 2000-2001. We are at 20 now.

As of midpoint in the year Cumberland Valley was the only region in the state to have achieved more than 50% of its goal having reached 63%. Currently, Cumberland Valley is still leading the state. We are at 79% of our goal.

The Permanency Team takes great pride in this figure, but would be remiss if we did not include the workers, secretaries and supervisors in the counties who initiate appropriate placements and work to prepare the cases for the Permanency Team. Without the regional team effort, permanency for our children would be more difficult to achieve.

The following statistics show the difference in TPR's granted during the past five years:

1996....TPR's Granted: 3
1997....TPR's Granted: 10
1998....TPR's Granted: 15
1999....TPR's Granted: 25

2000....TPR's Granted: 47

Currently, Cumberland Valley Protection and Permanency offices have initiated adoption finalization for 22 more children. This encourages us that our goal of 24 adoptions will most certainly be met and perhaps surpassed. The most important aspect of all these numbers is that Cumberland Valley's children are achieving permanency. Every child in our region who comes from a violent and troubled background deserves a loving, secure and permanent home, where they can live a more normal life. This truly is the goal of the Cumberland Valley Permanency Team, and every other team in the region.

At this time we would like to wish the very best to Deborah Green who has transferred out of the Permanency Team to become CBW Specialist in Bell County. We will miss her very much and all the wonderful work she has done while with the Permanency Team.



ADOPTION INCENTIVE

Cumberland Valley staff members were recently given an opportunity to use some creativity with regard to the promotion of adoption. We were granted permission to use Adoption Incentive Bonus Money for purchasing items that will help to promote adoption and further communicate our services. Pictured above is a display/exhibit

backdrop that you will be seeing in meetings and recognizing at upcoming local festivals and events. The display proudly relays Cumberland Valley's slogan—***OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY.***

Also, a portion of Cumberland Valley's bonus money was used for promoting adoption through billboards ads. Look for the billboards pictured below over the course of the next year.



The billboard on top can be spotted in several locations throughout the region (a couple of specific locations—across the street from Hillbilly's Restaurant in Barbourville and on

Highway 25 between London and Corbin). The second billboard can be seen near Lowe's in Corbin and also near the Wal-mart Distribution Center on Highway 80, just outside of London.

Cumberland Valley also used some of the Adoption Incentive Bonus money to purchase 65 pieces of bright, colorful, children's luggage, (shown below), to be distributed to children in adoption placements. (Note to workers: You may pick up this luggage in Connie York's office as needed for children in adoption placements!)



FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS KY \$6 MILLION COUNTIES

Peggy Woods, SRAA, reports the following.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has announced the awards for Kentucky \$6 million counties.

Four counties in Kentucky received the highest award, the Gold Award. These counties issued \$6 million or more Food Stamps during the year with no errors cited by Quality Control. "BELL—CAMPBELL—McCRACKEN—PERRY" Congratulations to Bell County!!! It is phenomenal to issue \$6 million of Food Stamp benefits with no cited errors. We are very proud of you.

The second highest award is the Blue Award. The Blue Award is issued to counties with less than 5% error rate. These rates are based upon the amount of erroneous benefits and not the number of cases cited in error. Eight Kentucky counties received these awards. Three of the counties are our own—Clay, Whitley, and Harlan.

HEROES

“Honoring Excellence & Rewarding Outstanding Employee Service”

And the Regional Winner is....Mike Dunn!

Contributed by Diane Bush of Clay County...

Cumberland Valley’s HEROES committee decided early on that we would recognize outstanding employees every quarter. There will be quarterly winners from each county and one regional winner. Our first round of HEROES winners was announced in March.

Mike Dunn of the Family Support Office in Laurel County was recognized as being the very first regional winner. Mike was presented with a pen, mouse pad, tote bag and a HEROES pin. Congratulations, Mike! Each county winner received a framed certificate and their choice of a mouse pad or pen. They also received HEROES pins.

County HEROES Winners:

Bell: Mary Akers
Clay: Yvonne Smith
Harlan: Kimberly Peterson
Jackson: Crystal Estridge

Knox: Glenda Owens
Rockcastle: Jennifer White
Whitley: Glenn Hamblin



CLAY COUNTY P & P NEWS

Retirement

Retirement news from Clay—Janet Elliott and Jo Lena Reed are retiring effective July 31, 2001. Staff plan to host a reception in their honor on July 17 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Manchester Square Shopping Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

Congratulations...

Congratulations to Marti Allen who was chosen as Cumberland Valley’s nominee for the state’s Paul T. Grannis award. This award is the Cabinet’s highest tribute to front-line staff members of the Department of Community Based Services. The award was founded in honor of Paul T. Grannis who was killed in Fleming County in 1987 while investigating a child-abuse case.

Along with the Grannis Award, Commissioner’s Awards are presented annually to service workers from all regions. These winners are recognized for their individual superior work and collectively as they represent all of P & P staff. Cumberland Valley is proud of our own Marti Allen, winner of a 2000 Commissioner’s Award.

Congratulations once again to Marti Allen who was promoted to Social Service Specialist (CPS/APS) effective July 1, 2001.



Clay Co. Staff held a luncheon on May 25, 2001 for the District Judges to improve communication for court process. It was hosted by Verne Webb, FSOS, Gary Hensley, Kendra Hensley, Lora Marks, Marti Allen, Diane Jackson, Jo Lena Reed, Carolyn Smith, and Helen Adams. Those present included District Judge Oscar Gayle House, District Judge Renee Muncy, former Assistant County Attorney Clint Harris, Cumberland Valley Attorney Ray Baldwin, Sheila Redmond of the Office of Counsel, and Robyn Zapp Basil from Quality Central.

Also, Clay Co. staff held a community partner meeting on June 5, 2001 at Clay County Middle School to discuss Multiple Response System. Lunch was served to all in attendance. Clay County P & P staff wish to thank Family Support and Child Support staffs for attending and assisting with providing food.



April is Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Carolyn Smith created a flyer which was distributed at the Manchester Memorial Hospital Health Fair. The flyer was also mailed to all Community Partners so they could have a better understanding of the Blue Ribbon Story. In addition, the federal prison enlarged the flyer to a 2' X 3' size and posted it at the entrance hallway for the entire month of April. Carolyn's flyer held an actual blue ribbon and told the following story:

*April 5th is Blue
Ribbon Day*

The Blue Ribbon Story

In the spring of 1989, a Chesapeake grandmother began what was to become the Blue Ribbon Campaign. It was a testimonial to her 3-year-old grandson, who was murdered by his mother's

abusive boyfriend. Bonnie Finney was the grandmother whose misgivings about the way her grandchildren were being treated were confirmed in the most tragic way. She spoke to a Richmond newspaper reported about her feelings. "One day I was just thinking about all the bruises I had seen on my grandchildren. I just decided I was going to tie a blue ribbon on my van. Why blue? I intend never to forget the battered, bruised bodies of my grandchildren. Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for protection for our children." Please wear this ribbon until it becomes tattered and frayed—to show your support of families and children and your support of the child abuse prevention organization in your community.



Clay County Family Support office decorated a bulletin board and table in their waiting room with information about child abuse prevention. They distributed blue ribbons and other items to everyone who visited their office. Children received blue balloons and staff wore their ribbons throughout the month of April.

HARLAN COUNTY NEWS

In honor of Public Employees Recognition Week, the Harlan County Judge Executive, Joseph A. Grieshop, issued a proclamation in which he urged all citizens of Harlan County to recognize the important work done by the employees of the Cabinet for Families and Children, Community Based Services in the Cumberland Valley Region.



Kimberley Peterson, Family Support Specialist II, was chosen as Employee of the First Quarter 2001. Others nominated include Marlene King, Beckie Jones, Gail Owens, Dale Fox, JoEtta Hylton, Trula Green, and Beverly Freeman.



On April 3, a presentation on Child Abuse Prevention, dealing with Anger and Conflict was held at the Hall Elementary School in the Resource and Youth Service center. Ted Marshall made the presentation. Blue ribbons were distributed. Other presentations—Child Protection on April 5 and Good Touch, Bad Touch on April 6.



A Lottery Winner!

Dallas Carr of the Harlan P & P Office won \$100,000 playing the lottery! Powerball! If she had gotten the correct number for the Powerball she would be a millionaire.

Personals from Harlan County Child Support Office...

Birthdays: Darlene Shackelford, April 28
Tina Burkhart, May 7
Christina Vanover, June 14

Darlene Shackelford's son, Todd Shackelford, graduated from Union in May with a Teaching Degree.

Sue Ann Harris has a new granddaughter, Cassia Elizabeth, born on May 13, 2001.

Staff planned a "self recognition" office cookout for July 3rd.

JACKSON COUNTY NEWS

Barbara Parman reports that the Jackson County Family Support staff made blue ribbons during staff meeting and presented them at the Vision

2000 meeting to all community partners on a leaflet stating "How the Blue Ribbon Campaign Began." Faye Neeley provided the ribbons, Barbara Parman obtained the leaflet, and staff worked as a group to put everything together.

.. ..

Teresa Proffitt conducted an "Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents" training at the Mt. Vernon Training Center on June 20 with Bell, Whitley, Laurel, and Clay Counties. Teresa worked very hard preparing her ABAWD Training Manual and we would like to recognize her for this.

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

Glenda Owens was presented the HEROES award in April. Also in April, Tina Brown asked Pat Hauser, Mayor of Barbourville, to come to the Knox Co. office and sign the proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

LAUREL COUNTY NEWS

Giving Runs In Our Families

From the Laurel County Family Support Office...Ashley Dezarn of London recently earned the 2000-2001 Girl Scout Gold Award—the highest achievement in Girl Scouting! At least 50 hours of community service was required for this accomplishment. Ashley worked with young mothers who were nearing the completion of their GED and planning to enter the job market. Thanks to Ashley's efforts and some assistance from local businesses and individuals, the mothers were provided appropriate clothing as well as some tips on professional appearance for job interviews. Ashley also arranged for an instructor from Somerset Community College to speak to the ladies about career choices. Ashley Dezarn is the daughter of Sharlene Dazarn who works in the Laurel County Family Support Office.



The South Laurel P & P staff participated in the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day on April 7. The team was represented by John Collier who participated in different activities throughout the day.

... ..

Laurel County Family Support staff were presented with a flyer explaining the history of the Blue Ribbon Campaign along with a blue ribbon to wear. Child Abuse Prevention and Blue Ribbon Campaign flyers were posted throughout the office and lobby in hopes of bringing greater awareness to the clients. Two large posters depicting Child Abuse Prevention Month were made and posted in the lobby, one of which offered pull-off telephone numbers for the North and South P & P teams. Tina Reams worked in conjunction with the Laurel County Family and Domestic Violence Council and the T. L. C. House on a blue ribbon project. Blue ribbons were tied around the trees that line London's Main Street.

WHITLEY COUNTY NEWS

The photos at right, submitted by Elsbeth Cobb, represent the enthusiasm and dedication of the **Corbin P & P** staff in recognizing Child Abuse Awareness Month. Elsbeth reports that the Corbin office did a spectacular job celebrating April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. From Elsbeth, "It was a team effort and each person shared their time, talent, and abilities to make their community more aware of child abuse. Initial planning was done by Karen Smith and Jessica McCampbell, a Cumberland College student, who took the ball and ran with it, designing brochures and making blue ribbons for area businesses. Corbin was represented at City Hall Proclamation by Jane Seale, Lynn Goins, and Jessica McCampbell who also creatively designed a banner for the window. Case Workers Jill Lockaby and Jane Seale spoke to Boy and Girl Scout Troops about child abuse. Angie Jarboe, with assistance from Belinda Buttery, initiated students from Oak Grove School and Whitley Central to create posters that adorned the Corbin office walls throughout the month. Girl Scouts also added their "Special Moments" posters. Tonya Ross provided Corbin High School Clubs with blue ribbons and brochures addressing child abuse. Barbara Hill, Dixie Hinebeck, Andrea Burns, and Linda Rowlett assisted, lending praise and support." Elsbeth added her own touch of artistic expression to the window using Jill Lockaby's slogan "Be An Angel...Protect A Child." Elsbeth reminds us that if we work as a team, everyone achieves more!





Also from Whitley County, Janice Terrell reports that the Williamsburg group has been sprucing up their building. In April, the Whitley County Middle School began painting a mural in the lobby. Many employees have painted their offices. In addition, employees have been working toward creating an outdoor “lunch and breaks” area. They have installed an awning, did some landscaping, and are planning to move picnic tables to the area.

... ..

Congratulations to Glen Hamblin, Family Support Specialist II. Glen received the First Quarter County HEROES Award.



Recent “Deliveries”
to Whitley
Congratulations



Scotty Lickliter and family welcome a son, Braeden, born on April 18. Also, Virgil Bowlin and family welcome a son, Matthew, born on April 20, 2001. In addition, Kim Owens and family welcome a son, Bodie, born on May 30, 2001. And lastly, Lisa Cain and family welcome a daughter, Mahalia, born on June 28.

Retirement

Carolyn Miracle will be retiring effective July 31, 2001. At that time she will have worked with Protection and Permanency for 29 years and 9 months. Carolyn worked as a secretary in Williamsburg for most of that time, and has worked as Regional Billing Clerk for the last year and a half.

Going

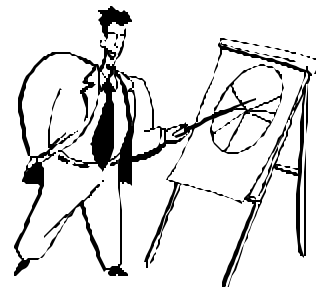
Cathy Howard, Family Support Specialist III, is transferring from Corbin to the Knox County DCBS office as Case Manager effective July 1. Johnna George, Family Support Specialist II, resigned her position effective June 1, her husband being transferred with his employment.

FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Effective March 1, 2001, Cumberland Valley had a 59% Kentucky Works Program participation rate, putting them second in the state!

TRAINING INFORMATION



Sam York has asked that the following training news be passed along.

Changes have been made recently concerning lodging for staff attending GSC/GOT classes in Frankfort. A direct billing arrangement has been set up at the Best Western Parkside. Employees wishing to take advantage of this direct billing arrangement can call the hotel directly at (502) 695-6111, and then e-mail LeeAnn May to let her know when they will be staying overnight. This should be very helpful to staff. The state will pay the hotel directly--no out of pocket money required from employees.

.. . .

Also from Sam:

In an effort to control expenditures of travel and overtime associated with attending training events, the Division of Professional Development and Training has implemented a plan to help reduce expenses. Most statewide trainings will now start at noon on the first day and conclude at noon on the final day. Regional training events will not be effected by this policy.



CUMBERLAND VALLEY MASTER EAL SCHEDULE:

LAUREL TEAMS

Set 5...Sept 11...8:30 to noon...Williamsburg Cumb. Lodge
Set 6...Sept 25...8:30 to noon...Williamsburg Cumb. Lodge
Set 7...Oct 9...8:30 to noon...Williamsburg Cumb. Lodge

JACKSON/ROCKCASTLE/PERM AND R & C

Set 6...July 26...9:30 to 2:30...ADD Building London
Set 7...Sept 26...9:30 to 2:30...ADD Building London

WHITLEY TEAMS

Set 5...Sept 11...1:00 to 4:30...Williamsburg Cumb. Lodge
Set 6...Sept 25...1:00 to 4:30...Williamsburg Cumb. Lodge
Set 7...Oct 9...1:00 to 4:30...Williamsburg Cumb. Lodge

KNOX TEAMS

Set 3...Sept 12...9:30 to 2:30...ADD Building London
Set 4...Sept 18...9:30 to 2:30...Cumberland Falls SRP
Set 5...Oct 2...1:00 to 4:30...Cumberland Falls SRP
Set 6...Oct 10...1:00 to 4:30...Pine Mt. SRP Pineville
Set 7...Oct 24...1:00 to 4:30...Pine Mt. SRP Pineville

CLAY TEAMS

Set 3...Oct 4...9:30 to 2:30...Williamsburg Cumb. Lodge
Set 4...Oct 25...9:30 to 2:30...ADD Building London
Set 5...Nov 8...9:30 to 2:30...ADD Building London
Set 6...Nov 29...9:30 to 2:30...ADD Building London
Set 7...Dec 13...9:30 to 2:30...ADD Building London

HARLAN TEAMS

Set 2...Sept 17...9:30 to 2:30...Benham Center
Set 3...Oct 1...9:30 to 2:30...Benham Center
Set 4...Oct 18...9:30 to 2:30...Benham Center
Set 5...Nov 1...9:30 to 2:30...Benham Center
Set 6...Nov 15...9:30 to 2:30...Benham Center
Set 7...Dec 6...9:30 to 2:30...Benham Center

BELL TEAMS

Set 1...July 31...9:30 to 2:30...Williamsburg Cumb. Lodge
Set 2...Sept 5...9:30 to 2:30...Pine Mt. SRP Pineville
Set 3...Sept 19...9:30 to 2:30...Pine Mt. SRP Pineville
Set 4...Oct 2...8:30 to noon...Cumberland Falls SRP
Set 5...Oct 10...8:30 to noon...Pine Mt. SRP Pineville
Set 6...Oct 24...8:30 to noon...Pine Mt. SRP Pineville
Set 7...Nov 7...9:30 to 2:30...Pine Mt. SRP Pineville

NOTE: This is the first issue of the Cumberland Valley newsletter. Thanks to everyone who contributed. Our newsletter will only be as informative and interesting as the input I receive from all of you. Please begin sending points of interest to me now for the next quarterly edition. I hope that we come to view our newsletter as an important communications tool. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions as to how to improve our newsletter, feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,

Connie York
Fiscal Manager
Cumberland Valley



Our Family
Helping
Your Family

